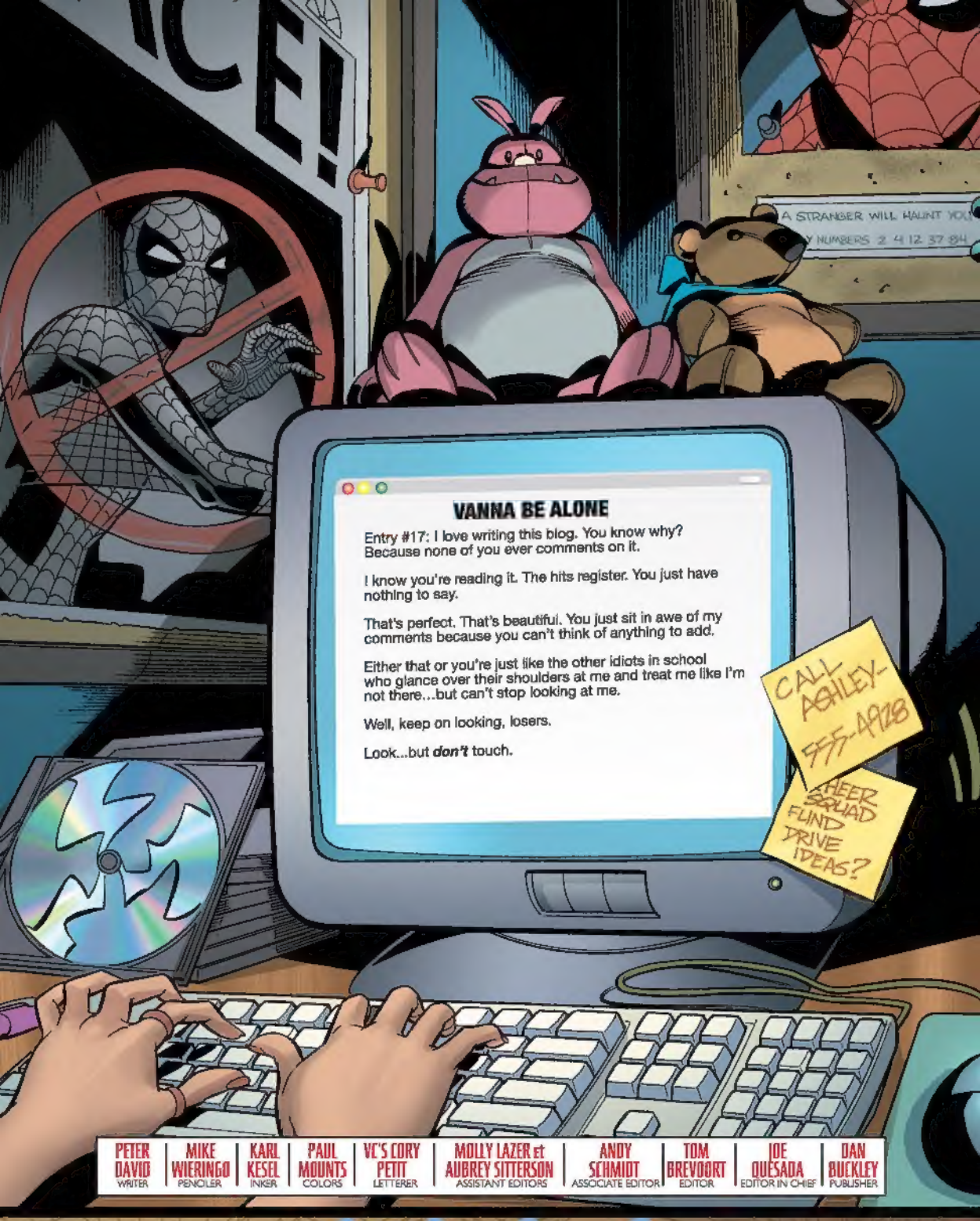
Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL.com 5

DAVID
WIERINGO
KESEL



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Web Log

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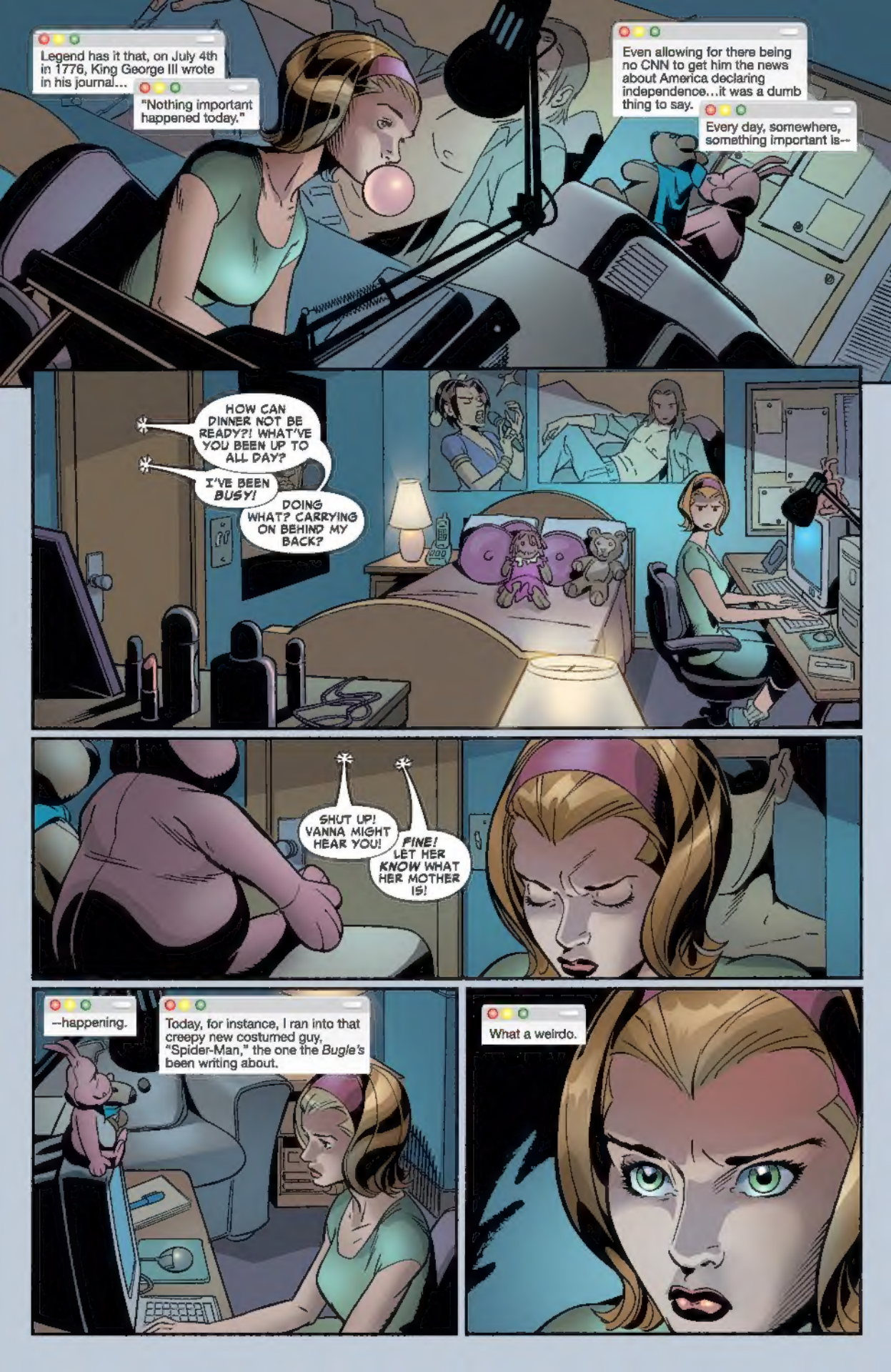

Legend has it that, on July 4th in 1776, King George III wrote in his journal...
"Nothing important happened today."
Even allowing for there being no CNN to get him the news about America declaring independence...it was a dumb thing to say.
Every day, somewhere, something important is--
HOW CAN DINNER NOT BE READY?! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO ALL DAY?
I'VE BEEN BUSY!
DOING WHAT? CARRYING ON BEHIND MY BACK?
SHUT UP! VANNA MIGHT HEAR YOU!
FINE! LET HER KNOW WHAT HER MOTHER IS!
--happening.
Today, for instance, I ran into that creepy new costumed guy, "Spider-Man," the one the Bugle's been writing about.
What a weirdo.

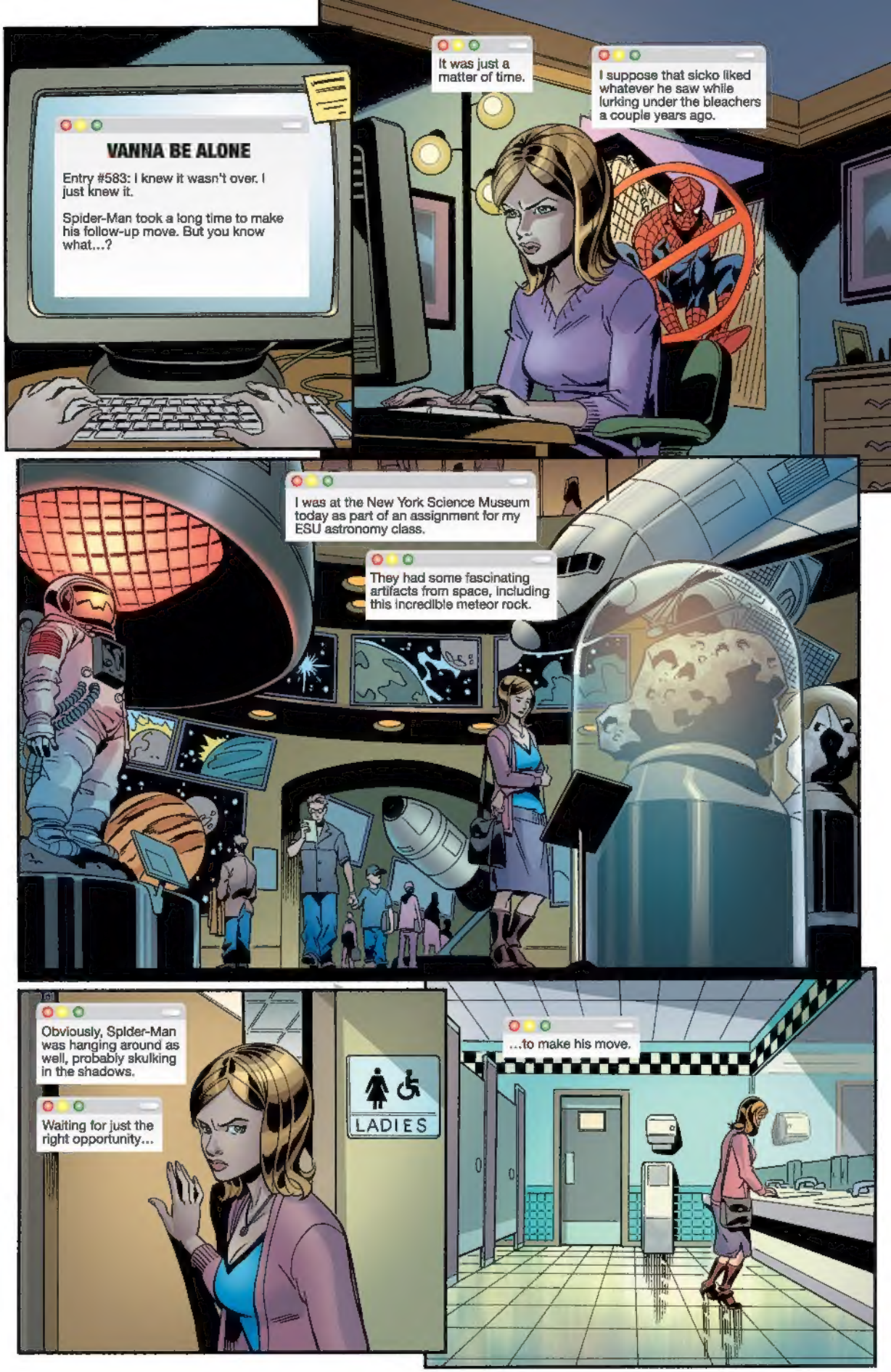
Things were normal enough. I was chatting with some friends. Flash Thompson, our lead jock, was ragging on that science nerd guy... Peter Palmer, I think his name is.
Suddenly there's police sirens and the sound of shooting. And some guys out in the street shouting...
"He's robbed the armored truck!"
And then this guy appears out of nowhere.
FLEE, YOU IDIOT TEENS! FLEE...BEFORE YOU ATTRACT TOO MUCH OF THE VULTURE'S ATTENTION!
BANK

VANNA! COME ON!
The others ran like sheep. But me... I stood my ground.
Nobody tells me what to do.
VANNA!
MOVE! NOW!
O-OKAY!!!
What a sicko. Hiding underneath the bleachers, probably looking up our skirts the whole time.
THWIP
THWIP
What else can you expect from someone who calls himself--
SPIDER-MAN!!!

VERY WELL, THEN! YOU'VE "CAUGHT" ME.
NOW TRY HOLDING ME!
UNHHHH!!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PROVE. ANY SANE PERSON WOULD HAVE LET GO.
THE GUY DRESSED LIKE A SPIDER... IS GETTING LECTURED ON SANITY... BY THE GUY DRESSED LIKE A BIRD...
SOME PAINFUL IRONY THERE...
ARRHHH!
HOW ABOUT SOME MORE PAIN, THEN?

SPIDEY! IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?!?
CAN YOU FLY?
NO.
THEN GET OUT OF THE WAY.
BUT YOU CAN'T FLY EITHER!
TRUE.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE...
...TO TOSS SOMEONE THE BIRD!

ARRGHHHH! MY POWER SUPPLY...!
BLAST YOU, SPIDER-MAN! THIS ISN'T OVER!
I SHOULD HOPE NOT!
I WANTED TO PROLONG THE PART WHERE I POUND ON YOU!
YOU OKAY, VANNA?
I'M...I'M FINE...
WELL, SURE YOU ARE! SPIDER-MAN SAVED YOU--
HE DID NO SUCH THING. HE PUT MY LIFE IN DANGER...
...AND HE'S A PEEPING TOM TO BOOT.


VANNA BE ALONE
Entry #583: I knew it wasn't over. I just knew it.
Spider-Man took a long time to make his follow-up move. But you know what...?
It was just a matter of time.
I suppose that sicko liked whatever he saw while lurking under the bleachers a couple years ago.
I was at the New York Science Museum today as part of an assignment for my ESU astronomy class.
They had some fascinating artifacts from space, including this incredible meteor rock.
Obviously, Spider-Man was hanging around as well, probably skulking in the shadows.
Waiting for just the right opportunity...
LADIES
...to make his move.

YIIIII!!
BABY STATI
SORRY, MISS...
NOT MY BEST ENTRANCE.
HEY! WHOA!
WHAT'RE YOU--?
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
YOU'RE ASKING ME?
YOU THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN THAT TIME ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD? WITH THE VULTURE? YOU ALMOST GOT ME KILLED!
THE VUL--?
OH, NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PRETEND YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME!

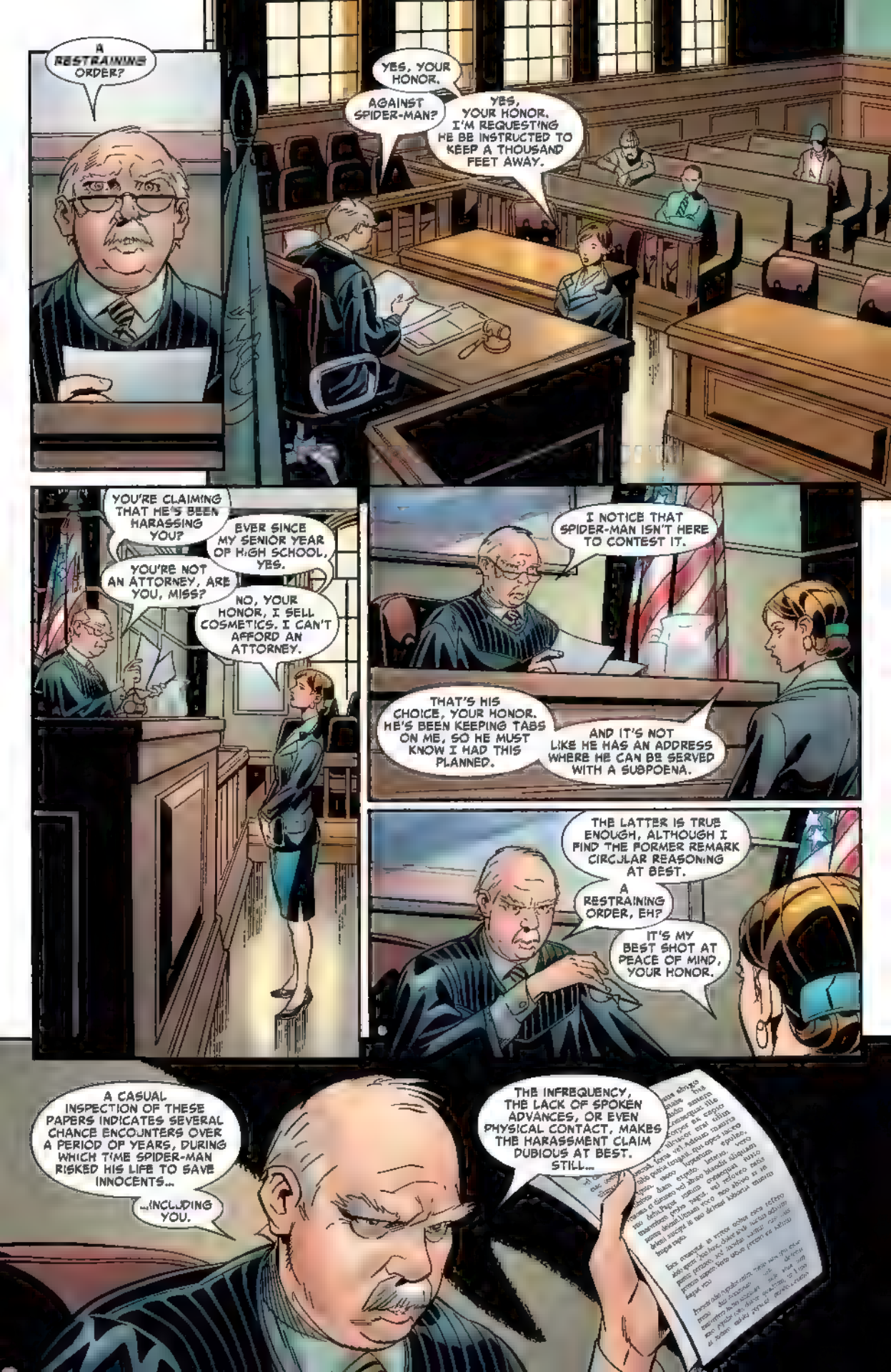
LOOK, MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO REMINISCE, OR MAYBE GET SMACKED BY YOUR PURSE SOME MORE...
...I'VE GOT SOME OTHER STUFF I GOTTA DEAL WITH NOW, OKAY?
IT IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT OKAY!
YOU CAN'T JUST INVADE PEOPLE'S PRIVACY, OR--
YOU JUST DON'T LEARN, DO YOU, SPIDER-MAN?
JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STAY DOWN.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. FINE.

I'LL PUT YOU DOWN SO FAR YOU'LL NEVER GET BACK UP!
So I'm thinking, "This is impossible! How can it be that Spider-Man yet again 'just so happens' to fight some whack-job while I'm around?"
And that's when I started thinking about what the Daily Bugle always says...
That Spider-Man is just as bad as any of them. Maybe they're even in cahoots.
And that's when I realized that maybe maybe...
...Spider-Man was staging these fights to impress me.
I know, I know...it sounds farfetched. But if you're willing to accept the idea of a guy who crawls walls and shoots webs...
...anything's possible.

SORRY, LOOTER! YOU CAN KICK ME, PUNCH ME, TRY TO POUND ME INTO MULCH...THAT GOES WITH THE TERRITORY...
...BUT THIS WAS WAAAY TOO CLOSE TO A SWIRLY FOR MY COMFORT LEVEL!
IT'S BEEN FUN, CRAZY LADY. WE GOTTA DO THIS AGAIN SOME TIME.
Crazy lady!
Can you believe it?

Entry #1479: He showed up again today. This time he didn't say anything to me. Pretended he was so "busy" fighting that Sandman guy that he didn't even notice me.
But he kept glancing my way. I know it.
This just proves that I wasn't imagining it. I knew I'd seen him skulking around recently.
It's a kind of sickness, that's what it is.
I've told my therapist that Spider-Man is stalking me, but she seems skeptical.
I can't wait to tell her about this further proof.

Entry #1621: It's getting worse. Each incident, closer and closer together.
It's clearly some form of sickness.
Spider-Man simply can't keep away from me, and all his "super-villain" pals are working with him so he can keep trying to "impress" me.
I tried going to the police, but they said, absent real proof, there was nothing they could do.
My therapist was no help. Had to dump her.
But I think I know what to do.


A RESTRAINING ORDER?
YES, YOUR HONOR.
AGAINST SPIDER-MAN?
YES, YOUR HONOR. I'M REQUESTING HE BE INSTRUCTED TO KEEP A THOUSAND FEET AWAY.
YOU'RE CLAIMING THAT HE'S BEEN HARASSING YOU?
EVER SINCE MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, YES.
YOU'RE NOT AN ATTORNEY, ARE YOU, MISS?
NO, YOUR HONOR, I SELL COSMETICS. I CAN'T AFFORD AN ATTORNEY.
I NOTICE THAT SPIDER-MAN ISN'T HERE TO CONTEST IT.
THAT'S HIS CHOICE, YOUR HONOR. HE'S BEEN KEEPING TABS ON ME, SO HE MUST KNOW I HAD THIS PLANNED.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE HE HAS AN ADDRESS WHERE HE CAN BE SERVED WITH A SUBPOENA.
THE LATTER IS TRUE ENOUGH, ALTHOUGH I FIND THE FORMER REMARK CIRCULAR REASONING AT BEST.
A RESTRAINING ORDER, EH?
IT'S MY BEST SHOT AT PEACE OF MIND, YOUR HONOR.
A CASUAL INSPECTION OF THESE PAPERS INDICATES SEVERAL CHANCE ENCOUNTERS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME SPIDER-MAN RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE INNOCENTS...
...INCLUDING YOU.
THE INFREQUENCY, THE LACK OF SPOKEN ADVANCES, OR EVEN PHYSICAL CONTACT, MAKES THE HARASSMENT CLAIM DUBIOUS AT BEST. STILL...

A MAN CAME BEFORE ME ONCE, SUING THE PLANET MARS.
CLAIMED THAT MARTIANS WERE TAMPERING WITH HIS BRAIN WAVES AND ASKED FOR RELIEF FROM THE COURT.
SO I ISSUED AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE MARTIANS, FORBIDDING THEM FROM TAMPERING WITH HIS BRAIN.
HE WALKED OUT OF HERE A HAPPY MAN. HE HAD HIS DAY IN COURT AND FELT SOME MEASURE OF SECURITY.
IN THAT SPIRIT, MA'AM, I AM ISSUING A RESTRAINING ORDER.
FIVE HUNDRED FEET, NOT ONE THOUSAND. I DON'T NEED YOU RUNNING IN HERE FOR RELIEF IF SPIDER-MAN SHOULD HAPPEN TO SWING PAST TEN STORIES UP.
I SHOULD EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER... THAT IN THIS ACTION, I'M WILLING TO CONCEDE SPIDER-MAN POSES AS MUCH A THREAT TO YOU...
...AS DO MARTIANS.
THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
JUST AS AN ASIDE, YOUNG LADY...
YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER GETTING PROFESSIONAL HELP.
WITH RESPECT, YOUR HONOR...I JUST DID.

Entry #1622: Well, that didn't take long As soon as I posted on this blog what I'd done, I got a call from...
J. JONAH JAMESON, MISS SMITH. BUGLE PUBLISHER. THANKS FOR COMING BY.
WHAT YOU DID TOOK GUTS AND INITIATIVE, MISS SMITH.
THANK YOU, MR. JAMESON. I'M SORRY IT WAS NECESSARY, BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY, "THIS IS WHERE I TAKE MY STAND."
BY GOD, I WISH MORE CITIZENS HAD YOUR, UH...
UHM...
YES. WELL, IN POINT OF FACT, THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO COME IN.
WE WANT TO RUN YOUR PICTURE, DO A STORY ABOUT YOU.
HECK, IF ENOUGH PEOPLE GET RESTRAINING ORDERS AGAINST THAT WALL-CRAWLING CREEP, HE'D HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN FOR GOOD.
PARKER! GET IN HERE!
COME EARN YOUR KEEP SNAPPING SOMETHING OTHER THAN GLORY-HOUNDS!
OOOOKAY.

THIS WOMAN HAD THE *GUTS* TO CHALLENGE SPIDER-MAN IN COURT! HOLD UP THE RESTRAINING ORDER, VANNA.

YEAH? YOU *CHALLENGED* HIM? FACE TO... UH...MASK?

NO, BUT I WISH HE *HAD* SHOWN UP. I'D HAVE LOVED TO SETTLE THE SCORE WITH--

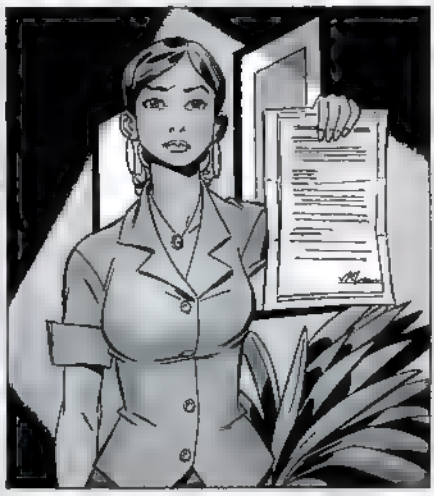
HAVE, UH...WE MET?

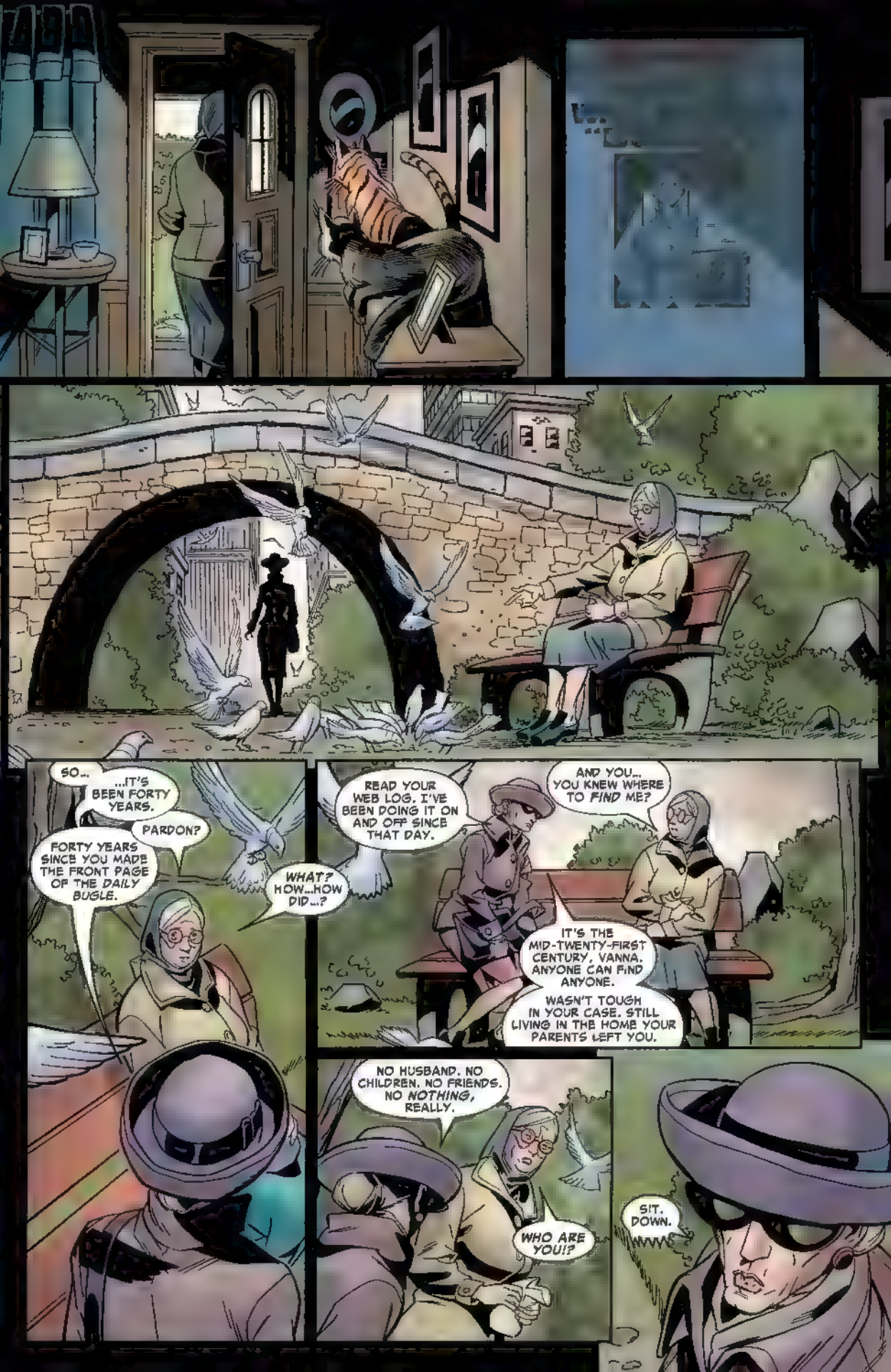
NOPE, YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL.

FLASH

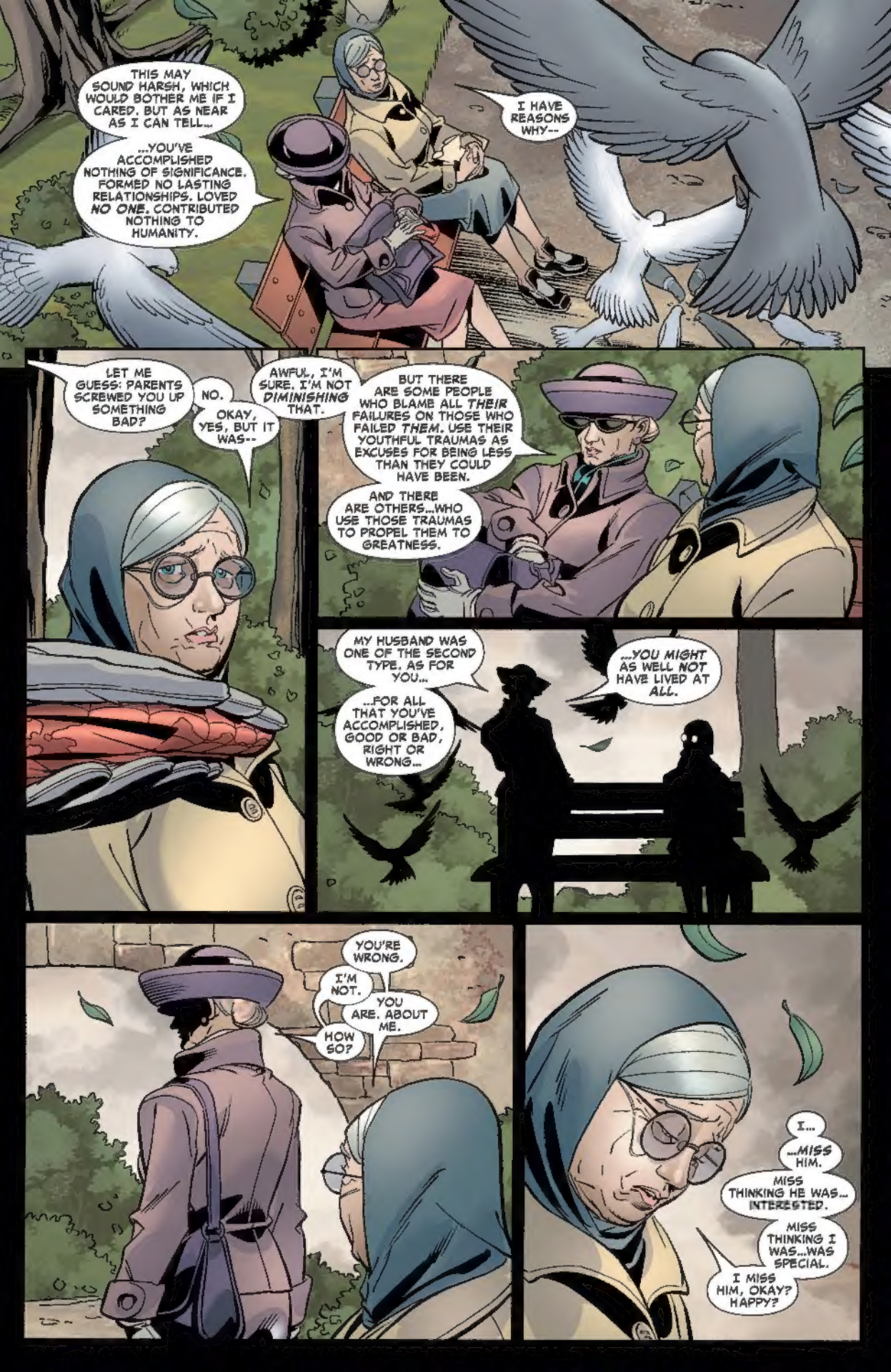
DAILY BUGLE

JUDGE TO WALL-CRAWLER: "BUG OFF"




SO...
...IT'S BEEN FORTY YEARS.
PARDON?
FORTY YEARS SINCE YOU MADE THE FRONT PAGE OF THE DAILY BUGLE.
WHAT? HOW...HOW DID...?
READ YOUR WEB LOG. I'VE BEEN DOING IT ON AND OFF SINCE THAT DAY.
AND YOU... YOU KNEW WHERE TO FIND ME?
IT'S THE MID-TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, VANNA. ANYONE CAN FIND ANYONE.
WASN'T TOUGH IN YOUR CASE. STILL LIVING IN THE HOME YOUR PARENTS LEFT YOU.
NO HUSBAND. NO CHILDREN. NO FRIENDS. NO NOTHING, REALLY.
WHO ARE YOU!?
SIT. DOWN.

THE FIRST THING YOU SHOULD KNOW IS THAT YOUR "RESTRAINING ORDER" WAS MEANINGLESS.
NO, IT WASN'T. HE NEVER CAME NEAR ME AGAIN...
THERE'S TEN MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS CITY. IT WAS MIRACULOUS THAT YOU RAN INTO HIM AS MANY TIMES AS YOU DID.
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT ELSE...
...IF YOUR LIFE HAD BEEN IN DANGER, AND HE'D BEEN IN THE AREA, NO PIECE OF PAPER WOULD HAVE STOPPED HIM FROM SAVING YOU.
IF YOU BELIEVE OTHERWISE, YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL THAN I CREDITED YOU FOR.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE...
I'M HIS WIDOW, YOU IDIOT.
THAT'S HIS BLOODIED MASK, IF YOU WANT TO CHECK IT OUT.
IF YOU THINK I'M LYING, I HAVE OTHER PROOF...
NO, I... I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LYING.
I HEARD THE REPORTS... BUT THERE WERE THE RUMORS THAT HE'D SURVIVED. THAT...
HE'S... REALLY DEAD?
REALLY DEAD.
I SUPPOSE THAT COMES AS A RELIEF TO YOU.
I... SUPPOSE IT DOES.


THIS MAY SOUND HARSH, WHICH WOULD BOTHER ME IF I CARED. BUT AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL...
...YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE. FORMED NO LASTING RELATIONSHIPS. LOVED NO ONE. CONTRIBUTED NOTHING TO HUMANITY.
I HAVE REASONS WHY--
LET ME GUESS: PARENTS SCREWED YOU UP SOMETHING BAD?
NO.
OKAY, YES, BUT IT WAS--
AWFUL, I'M SURE. I'M NOT DIMINISHING THAT.
BUT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO BLAME ALL THEIR FAILURES ON THOSE WHO FAILED THEM. USE THEIR YOUTHFUL TRAUMAS AS EXCUSES FOR BEING LESS THAN THEY COULD HAVE BEEN.
AND THERE ARE OTHERS...WHO USE THOSE TRAUMAS TO PROPEL THEM TO GREATNESS.
MY HUSBAND WAS ONE OF THE SECOND TYPE. AS FOR YOU...
...FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED, GOOD OR BAD, RIGHT OR WRONG...
...YOU MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE LIVED AT ALL.
YOU'RE WRONG.
I'M NOT.
YOU ARE. ABOUT ME.
HOW SO?
I...
...MISS HIM.
MISS THINKING HE WAS... INTERESTED.
MISS THINKING I WAS...WAS SPECIAL.
I MISS HIM, OKAY? HAPPY?

ENTRY NUMBER 15,270...
NOTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED TODAY.
Entry #15,270... Nothing important happened today.
END

MARVEL HEROES HOTSPOT

TOM SEZ

Is this a great time to be reading comics or what?

I can't recall another period where there was so much good stuff readily available to be consumed. Both Marvel and otherwise, both new and collected, if you've got a comic book jones to sate, chances are there's something out there that'll satisfy your appetite.

I also feel a general sense of excitement coming back into the field, as readers, retailers and fans of all stripes react to the overall movement. Sure, there's still plenty of snarkiness, plenty jaded cynicism of a kind only possible when the veil separating reader and creator has been permanently sundered. But there's also a wellspring of optimism, of wonder, of good feeling going around. Surely I can't be the only person who's seen this?

And it's not simply because those of us currently working in the comic book vineyards are so wonderful--that's not my point at all. Among classic material, from the greats of the medium, there's more readily available than ever before. It took me fifteen years to complete a run of FANTASTIC FOUR--now you can go out and buy a DVD-Rom of the whole thing for under fifty dollars, shot from the original books. On the low-tech side, the first 93 issues have been collected in hardcover MARVEL MASTERWORKS volumes, the first 83 in softcover black and white ESSENTIALS editions. And the same is true, in some measure, of everything from the competition's *Justice League of America* (80 issues in hardcover) to Will Eisner's *Spirit* (seventeen hardcover volumes and counting).

Atop that, the traditional stigma against reading comics seems to be diminishing, especially as movies and television adapt more and more material from our pages, and as more and more of the folks at the top of the entertainment world food chain have comic book reading in their background. Sure, we still get the *40-Year-Old Virgin* treatment from time to time, but these days we're just as likely to get the opposite. If nothing else, manufacturers know that we comic-book fans will spend money on the things we love, and they respect that, if nothing else.

So hold your head up high, True Believer! We finally won! The world is ours!

It's still a hair too early for us to have received any feedback on this page--the first one will be seeing print in about a week's time. But we're already starving for feedback, so please, drop us a line at mheroes@marvel.com and let us know how we're doing.

Tom B
Z

ITEM! IRON MAN associate editor Nicole Wiley has changed her name! Apparently, the Wiley appellation wasn't good enough for our Nicole, so she'll hereafter be known as Nicole Boose--and she went so far as to get married to Jorge Boose just to make it official (but take it from us--it was the name she was really after!). So congrats to the happy couple--and, say, what goes better together than Tony Stark and Boose?

ITEM! You asked for her, you got her! Spinning out of the pages of HOUSE OF M next month is an all-new series devoted to the adventures of Carol Danvers, Ms. Marvel! (A moment's pause here for Tom, who's still mourning the code-name Warbird.) Written by Brian Reed, the mastermind behind the ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN video game, and drawn by newcomer Rob De La Torre, Carol's got a new attitude and a new life-goal to pursue. (And don't be too surprised to see her hanging around the pages of NEW AVENGERS as well, as Brian Bendis is notoriously the jealous type!) There's a special lead-in story running in GIANT-SIZE MS. MARVEL #1 this month, along with a bevy of classic reprints to get you up to speed on where Carol's been. And then, in March, keep your eyes peeled and your wallet handy for MS. MARVEL #1!

ITEM! Love is in the air this February--and who'd have thought that coldhearted Fabian Nicieza would be the guy behind it all? But it's true--Fabe's the one who pitched us on I ❤ MARVEL, a month's worth of wonderful one-shots by a variety of creators, all focusing in some way on the eternal splendor of romance as it applies to men and women in cowls and tights! You'll notice the first four in the checklist at the end of this page--and we had so much love to share that the fifth one-shot, MASKED INTENTIONS, featuring Speedball, Squirrel Girl, Justice and Firestar, got squeezed into March!

ITEM! She's our strongest link to the Marvel-that-was, so here's a special shout-out to fabulous Flo Steinberg! Once Stan Lee's gal Friday and corresponding secretary back in the glory days of the 1960s, Flo's been back on staff for about a decade now, functioning as one of our eagle-eyed proofreaders! Whether it's teaching us how to spell Brobdingnagian, or translating Bendis' grammar into something resembling English, Flo's once again become an invaluable member of our Marvel family--and she knows where Stan buried all the bodies, so she's got the kind of job security few can match!

ITEM! You've no doubt heard about it on the Internet already, but in case you're one of those fun-loving luddites, the big news in the Marvel Universe in 2006 is going to be CIVIL WAR, a seven-part event from the mind of Mark Millar and the hand of Steve McNiven. Also lending some eye, ear, nose & throat expertise were the Marvel braintrust, consisting of Jeph Loeb, J. Michael Straczynski and Brian Bendis. You'll begin to see the breadcrumbs sprinkled liberally throughout all of our books in the coming weeks (and it wouldn't be the worst idea to keep an eye on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN this month...), so stay tuned for further updates!

MEET YOUR EDITORIAL CREW! Tom Brevoort received new Doctor Who David Tennant for Xmas. Andy Schmidt's wife, Alix, got him three *Justice League* DVDs, despite being sick of watching cartoons rather than shows about babies or dogs with jobs. Molly Lazer got a Target gift card for Chanukah, which she promptly went out and spent on DVDs like *Muppet Treasure Island* and *Singing in the Rain*. Aubrey Sitterson spent Kwanzaa all alone, in a funk, grumbling to himself.

ON SALE FEBRUARY 2006

BOOKS OF DOOM #4: Learn why Victor created the iron armor of Dr. Doom to seal himself off from the rest of humanity!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #15: Crossbones & Sin: young love on the run!

FANTASTIC FOUR #535: Can the Thing stop the Hulk before he destroys Las Vegas?

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN #5: Who is the woman Spider-Man has been stalking her entire life?

GIANT-SIZE MS. MARVEL #1: Carol Danvers' time to shine has come!

I ❤ MARVEL: WEB OF ROMANCE: What's a Spider-Man to give his Spider-Wife for Valentine's Day?

I ❤ MARVEL: MY MUTANT HEART: Three offbeat mutant romances, starring Wolverine, Cannonball, and...Doop?

I ❤ MARVEL: MARVEL ALL: Featuring Daredevil, the Avengers and the Inhumans, as drawn by some of Japan's finest artists!

I ❤ MARVEL: OUTLAW LOVE: Can love survive when both parties involved are dangerous criminals...and one of them is targeted for death?

IRON MAN: THE INEVITABLE #3: It's Iron Man vs. the Ghost, round two!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #17: Can Mutant 2099 help save the League of Losers and the rest of the world from Chronok?

NEW AVENGERS #16: The aftermath of HOUSE OF M results in the birth of a powerful new villain!

NEW THUNDERBOLTS #18: Moonstone is back! Or is she...?

SENTINEL #4: Juston returns home to confront his father, with the deadly Stealth Sentinel hot on his trail!

SENTRY #6: The Sentry must discover his forgotten origin to learn who and what he truly is!

SHE-HULK #5: Say hello to the newest member of She-Hulk's firm: Matt Hawk, the Two-Gun Kid!

SON OF M #3: To reclaim his lost power, Quicksilver crosses the line!

SPIDER-GIRL #95: Spider-Girl and friends face off against Tony Stark's berserk bodyguard, with unexpected casualties.

SPIDER-WOMAN: ORIGIN #3: More of Jessica Drew's past comes to light as she begins her work for S.H.I.E.L.D.

THING #4: Ben Grimm gets a new sidekick--Lockjaw!

X-FACTOR #4: There's a riot in Mutant Town, and X-Factor is caught in the center!

X-MEN: THE END-MEN AND X-MEN #2: In the depths of space, an X-Man breathes their last!

YOUNG AVENGERS #10: The secret origin of Hulkling is revealed!

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